

off with the cooperatives than the workers of America without the cooperatives?

The whole cooperative business shows the opportunistic and reformistic spirit of the trade unions. What is more the trade-union leaders are hoping to quiet the rising discontent of the workers against their leadership, by means of the cooperatives. First they expect to create a hope in the minds of the workers that the cooperatives will better their conditions and secondly, they wish to draw the workers closer to the union machine by making them take shares in the union cooperatives. Naturally those who have an economic interest in the union cooperatives will be slow to revolt against the union for fear their shares in the cooperatives will be lost.

Thus the "leaders", accept the cooperatives

for two reasons. First to avoid strikes against the bosses and second to avoid any revolt or outlaw strike on the part of the workers against the official union.

But all the efforts of these "leaders" will not help them. The class-struggle will go on and will become more and more bitter. No cooperatives will help the workers. They will merely divert their energies from the real struggle. The workers must realize that they can not afford to waste precious energy to meddle in cooperatives. Their struggle is on the job and in the factory. They must take away the leadership of their "leaders" and transform the union into what it should be, an organization to fight the every-day struggle of the working class and to train the workers for the final conflict to overthrow the capitalist class.

The Rise of American Shipping

(Jos. Poor.)

"The increase of America's Merchant Marine is greatly worrying some people in England." I think the correspondent who wrote this sentence for a capitalist paper in New York is greatly underrating England's alarm. Worrying is hardly the word—it is hysteric. The British Capitalists view the rise of American Industry in the same light and in the same perspective as they viewed the energetic manifestation of productive power by the German Business Interests. Like the champion pugilist who has fought often and has had many victories to his credit, but who, weakened by age is unable to stave off the powerful onslaughts of youth, such is the position of English Capitalism to-day.

It is well known that in 1914 Germany was the second sea-faring power with England holding premier place. Great Britain possessed in round numbers 18,600,000 tons of shipping to Germany's 6,000,000 tons. This in itself was no cause for alarm as the gap was too wide to seriously challenge the supremacy of England. But the persistency and iron tenacity of German industry pointed a bad omen for the British Imperialists who were impatient at the slightest sign of an aggressive rival. The War came and it took five years of maddened warfare, 10 million lives, millions of

widows, numbersless orphans, carnage, pillage, hunger, starvation, pestilence and all the abominations on the Earth to destroy German militarism by substituting a still greater militarism in the Allied Countries. All this in the divine name of democracy for Allied Imperialist supremacy on sea and land.

Germany and her allies were crushed, their armies destroyed and their merchant shipping confiscated. This unmistakably eliminated Germany as the growing rival of Great Britain—but it did not eliminate a rival. This "monster" has now changed his country and we are told by the English Imperialist Press that a new Satan has arisen clothed in the Stars & Stripes, in the very heart of the new world to seriously challenge the British Capitalists on the High Seas. The British Parasites are right.

In 1914 the United States had a very small merchant marine, hardly any to speak of. Today we find that the American capitalists have at their disposal 12 millions tons of shipping. This number is twice as large as Germany had in 1914. Hence it is evident that the American Plutocrats during the years 1914—1920 built more tonnage than all the rest of the countries outside of England. America thus becomes a great power on the